



# The Daily Movie Magazine



## CLOSE-UPS of the MOVIE GAME

BY HENRY M. NEELY

### How They Make a Plant Grow Before Your Eyes

A READER with an inquiring turn of mind writes in for an explanation of the term "stop motion photography," and wants to know what it's used for and all about it.

Perhaps the most interesting and instructive example that the average fan will see is in the pictures which show the growth, budding, blossoming and decay of some such plant as the rose or the daisy. They have the thing down to such a科学 now that it is possible for a class in botany, for instance, to see the whole life history of a plant in a single reel.

But, of course, stop motion is used much more widely in our slap-stick comedies or in trick pictures, like those showing a knife cutting a slice of bread with no apparent human agency.

You've often seen an automobile run away with itself. It will go shooting down the road, turn around two or three times and then climb a fence and sit down in a field. Or it will be made to do a regular can-can dance in the road, with nobody in sight to guide it.

"How do they ever make a car do such things?" you hear the fans ask on all sides of you.

It's the easiest thing in the world. It's simply stop-motion photography.

For scientific purposes, such as recording the growth of plants, they have designed quite elaborate apparatus which is automatic. They plant their seed, set up their cameras, arrange their lights, start their clockwork and go to bed pretty much in itself after that.

From then on, every half hour, we will say, the clock-work mechanism releases the shutter and one single tiny picture is made on the film. The next half hour another picture is made, the film, of course, being moved along and wound on reel as the mechanism operates.

Every half hour a single picture is made during the life of the plant. And, of course, each picture shows the tiny bit of growth that the plant has achieved in the meantime.

LET'S assume that it took ten months for the plant to grow and die. We made twelve sets of pictures in a day for sixty days. That means 1440 pictures on the film. But each set of the costume sixteen pictures, so we have 168 sets. I would spend this time through the production machine at one foot a second. So see the whole life process of the plant on the screen in three minutes.

SUPPOSE, instead of making scientific studies, we are producing comedies and want to make the automobile do its runaway stunt. We apply exactly the same principles to our work, but do it differently.

First we set up our camera on the road. Then we have our men push the auto into the field of view—but we don't photograph them doing it. We get the driver where we want it, make the motor go out of sight and then expose a foot or less of film—say a dozen separate images made on the long ribbon of celluloid.

Then we stop grinding and our men move the car perhaps a foot or more forward, get out of view and we make another dozen little pictures.

So, foot by foot, they move it down the road, get out of the way, and we take a few pictures of the spot where it is to do its jump dance, we carry out the same method. The men get it and turn it around a foot at a time, getting out of the picture until we expose our film.

So little by little, they might spend about half a dozen times, start off the road, climb up a bank, over the fence and bring us against the trunk of a tree. It is a long and laborious process, for, as I have explained, they must get out of the picture constantly. But when our prints are made and we run through the projection machine at normal speed, we have our reward, for we find that we have recorded the actions of the driver without any human agency in sight to account for the motion.

On the screen, jerkily, mechanism but not movement, the auto comes on the road, runs same distance, comes up around slowly a few times, do his up on the bank, over the fence and tie against the tree.

If he had had the auto move only a few inches at a time and had shot only two or three little pictures for each movement, the action on the screen would not be so jerky. Given time enough and care enough, it is possible to make it look perfectly smooth and natural, but this is seldom done for comedy.

AND that's the way we make a knife apparently cut a slice of bread.

We move the knife an inch or so, take our hands away, photograph it again, move it another inch, take our hands away, photograph it again—and so on. The result makes the movement of the knife but doesn't show the hands.

## HES ALL WRAPPED UP IN FILMS



## WHO SAID DRESS WAS NOT IMPORTANT IN FILMS



### MARJORIE DAW IS PLAYING AGAIN WITH RAY LINSON

By CONSTANCE PALMER

**MARJORIE DAW** and Helen Rawlings are working together in the latter's second starring picture.

Bernie Gordon is directing for the first time since Marjorie was a little girl in pictures and short subjects. She's now a very grown-up heroine, but with the same curly hair and precisely the same expression. It is my prophecy that Marjorie's expression will be the same at forty as it was at fourteen. You gather me both!

The "Yellow and Gold" company bid by the new feels Willifit is camped over at Catalina Island, playing checkers and waiting in the lobby of the St. Catherine Hotel, while the rains comes without. Richard Dix and Helene Chadwick are the bright, particular stars, and Rosemary Deas plays the maid, lady, mother, and if the girls' names did not tell, we'd have recognized them from the days without the blouse without any human agency in sight to account for the motion.

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Donald Crisp altered the period of "Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush" because he was afraid the "louisite" and "pork pie" hat fashions would make the fans laugh. So he went even farther back to the days of Robin Hood.

Here's the result. In the upper picture are Mrs. Hayden Coffin and Aley Fraser. Below is Mary Glynn.

### They're Having Trouble Getting the "Atmosphere" for "The Prodigal Judge"

FOR several weeks a Vitagraph began that man has been in western Tennessee during the Civil War, when Tennessee was still a rough, border country, and the location here has had to seek out scenes which correspond with the period.

According to reports received, his search has been successful. Andrew Jackson's old home, "The Hermitage," is to be used as a background for one scene. A beautiful plantation manor house, which was destroyed in the Civil War, has been rebuilt, together with a garden, a stable, a time country磨房 track built in 1830, said to be the one about which the famous "Camp Town Race Track" song was written, has been utilized for one scene, and an ancient side-hoofed river steamboat was refitted for the opening shots of the story. Edward Arden is the director and the cast is headed by Jean Pierre.

May McAvoy was working on the roof of the Lasky studio the other night smoking "Baby Doll," her newest picture. Poor little girl! She looked prettier than ever, and I wanted to see her, and I do, and I thought she was a good girl, and not a bad girl at that moment. I worked in a room, and the bunk. They're going to do it again. I wonder if she should be playing just what he should be playing: just partly in support of legitimate stars. For instance, he plays with Harry Langdon, and she's had a good part, and not been engaged for a picture at Metro. So you see all that wouldn't be fair.

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OLIVER Alec Chisholm was born in Cleveland, Ohio. His career began at the age of fourteen. She has recently been made a star. Her new picture is "Peggy Putts O'Clock."

ADELE Marion Davies' latest picture is called "The Big Picture." Everybody says read "Matinée Daily" and it has been dramatized, but as far as I know it has not yet been adopted for the screen. You will have to wait a while longer before seeing it on the screen, for without a doubt it will be turned into a picture.

Rogers Film Renamed

Will Rogers' picture, tentatively titled "Elk," has been christened "The Gobbling Duck."

It contains a scene in a sprawling mansion, where Rogers, like a rooster, struts about the floor, trying to proclaim his supremacy to the members of his household.

*Sunshine Sammy in "Penrod"*

The role of Herman, the claim of Ruth Tarrington's "Penrod," is in great shape. Sammy, Asbury, was originally planned for Marshall Neilan for the "Penrod" production. The jingamania in the little colored boy who has played in a number of Gauley Pollard productions,

## New Film for Holt Soon

Jack Holt's first star picture, "The Call Girl," is to be followed in a few days by another picture, "Meet Me in Your Window." Come again, and we'll promise that it was the real thing. She wears it in her picture, "Woman's Prize."

*Antonio Moreno*

His new picture, "A Guilty Conscience," has been sold in India. Betty Francisco is his leading lady.

## How I Became A Movie Star

As Told to INEZ KLUMPH

### What Has Already Happened

Dorothy Lane, a girl from a small town, shares her biggest ambition with thousands of other American girls—that of becoming a moving-picture star. She thinks her chance has come when Persis, a friend of hers working in New York, tells her motion-picture studios and asks her to visit her. On her first day in the metropolis, the girl starts on a visit to the studios and gains admittance to one of them. Dorothy is given the chance to play in a movie scene, and makes the most of it. She impresses Persis, a press agent for the company, who becomes interested in her. Then comes her big chance when, because of her resemblance to a well-known star, she is asked to double for her. When she tells Persis the happy news, Persis in turn tells of a delightful surprise for the evening—a party planned by her motion-picture friends.

THE girls all seemed young—younger than I was, some of them. And they weren't terribly painted, as you imagine all chorus girls are; they looked natural, even when they came right up close to you. It seemed funny to me that they didn't mind going right around among people in some of the costumes they wore, that left their whole backs perfectly bare, but they evidently didn't think anything of it. I looked away from them when they came up so close; it embarrassed me, even if they didn't notice it.

When the lights went on again, I was dancing with Mr. Melville and feeling ungrateful because I couldn't help wishing that he and Mr. Hopson were younger. I heard someone say, "Hello, Miss Lane!" And there was Lawrence French, dancing with an extremely pretty girl. It seemed so nice to see some one I knew up there. And he came over and asked me to dance with him the minute the next dance began.

When we were well out on the floor he said: "What are you doing here with Mr. Melville and that partner of his?" "Just having a good time," I answered; it seemed to fit his voice was grumpy.

"Sure they aren't offering to put you into pictures?" he asked.

"We're just going to get up a place with a few of our chums."

I told him about Fay Granville and how Mr. Hopson had said that I might get a part in her company.

"Don't you touch it!" he told me, looking terribly severe. "They're a gang of crooks, that bunch, and evidently they're planning to go to some little town in Pennsylvania, pretend to make some scenes of a picture and look around for a studio and sack the place. Of course, you'd be an asset; you're so young and sweet and guileless looking that you'd convince anybody that the company was honest. I've seen that trick worked before. Why that man Melville is so crooked he can't draw a straight breath. No, sir—just stay out of that little girl!"

The music stopped just then, and as the people all turned toward the orchestra and applauded for an encore, I saw Fay Granville come in. She looked amazingly graceful in her cloth-of-gold gown, sailing around like a woman of golden gild, vanity case, set with diamonds, dangling from her wrist.

"She doesn't look as if she should be mixed up in anything that wasn't honest," I said as we began to dance again.

Mr. French looked down at me then with the funniest expression in his eyes; I didn't know just what it meant, but my heart began to thump like a big hammer.

"She's so bad that I can't talk to you about her," he said after a minute or two. "Promise me that you won't have anything to do with her."

And I did; somehow I had to. But I wondered what I'd tell Mr. Hopson. Fay Granville was at our table when I went back to it, and I was introduced to her mother, a woman with a very kind face. She had a necklace of diamonds and a diamond ring on her finger, and she was a lovely woman.

"I told her what I was going to do."

He told me that he had just come up there with one of the stars of his company, who was in New York for a few days and then should have gone back to California, and that they were going along something along Broadway. I could wish nothing but that I was in their party.

I tried not to let anybody know that I wasn't perfectly happy, though, and got along pretty well. Persis was laying the time of her life; she seemed to like Mr. Melville. During the second act of the show, when they called their chairs close together and sat and whispered all the time, and then when people applauded and nodded with the little wooden hammer that were on the tables, they'd pound hard, too, and pretended that they had seen everything that went off.

## SEEKING THE HIGH PLACES

Wallace Reid  
spent most  
of his time  
on the roof  
for his  
latest film,  
"Rent Free."



### They Had to Build Trenches to Film Big Cattle Stampede

TRENCHES and fortifications have been built on the sweeping plains of the Aguirre ranch, a typically Western setting that nestles in the mesas north of the San Fernando Valley, for the dangerous business of recording on celluloid the stampede of thousands of head of cattle.

The projected scene will be incorporated in Harry Carey's "Man to Man."

Riding madly through milling cattle, Carey will be called on for an exceptional display of nerve, as well as brawn.

Cattle traps are out for the cameramen who take stampede scenes, their positions are protected by barbed-wire railroads, ties, the shots of flying hoofs which seem so thrilling on the screen are a long sight more thrilling to the cinematographers who peer out of cracks in the roofs of their dugouts, the riders of the traps were to fall on a single camera stativ, the occupant of the place would be "out of luck."

Cattle will be strong above the section of plain over which the herd will run to obtain shots from above. The work of the skilled cameraman won't be easy, for it will be giddy and difficult, due to the impossibility of getting perfect balance and stability in such a position.

**Town Created for Picture**

An interesting Canadian village called "Pontiac" has been erected under the supervision of Max Parker, art director, for exterior scenes in "The Land That Had No Turning," Agnes Ayres' first starring picture, an original story by Sir Gilbert Parker, one of the particularly colorful buildings in the village is an old-fashioned manor house, 200 years old, built along the lines of the French-Canadian style of architecture.

## To Be Continued Tomorrow

### PHOTOPLAYS

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